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not to exceed 4 percent. So I'm hoping that we might have some discussion this afternoon. I'm thinking that there are other ideas out there. But at least this does tie it to something that...and at one time, I also offered an amendment to look at benefits. Because many people assume that we, as state employees, receive health and retirement benefits. And of course, we all know that we do not. So...but in regards...we thought that the consumer price index might actually be more beneficial and helpful to senators in the future. And by that, I know that most of us that are going to be involved in this discussion this afternoon, will not affect us personally. But looking to the future of the institution and how we might better look at the salary issue. And I would return the rest of my time back to Senator Friend if you would like to add a few comments. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. How much time remaining?

SENATOR CUDABACK: About six minutes.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Members of the Legislature, the only thing that I would add...and certainly, when we first addressed this issue, I...out on the floor on General File, the first thing that occurred to me is probably the first thing that occurred to a lot of us in...a lot of my colleagues in here, and then also occurred to some of the people out there who are following this issue. A 100 percent raise these folks are looking at? A 100 percent raise they're actually going to try to procure? Obviously, that was a little bit of a concern from the standpoint of taking too big a bite of an apple...of a particular apple, I believed. That was my thought process for the amendment that I brought. When we got together in an informal meeting, I guess I would say, I would term it, that this seemed to make sense, because you're taking a 50 percent approach to the problem, or to the situation, you're giving the citizens of Nebraska something that I thought was more legitimate to deal with. And Senator Stuhr had an...I guess, a component, or a piece of the equation that I felt like